

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-15 H-01 INR-10 INT-05
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-11 OES-09
SP-02 SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 NRC-05 EA-10
NEA-10 /155 W
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R 132134Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4826
INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, OECD, TECH, INFCE
SUBJECT: IEA NUCLEAR SUB GROUP

1. THE NUCLEAR SUBGROUP MET TO DISCUSS THE SECRETARIAT DRAFT OF ELECTRICITY AND NUCLEAR FORECASTS IN IEA COUNTRIES, REVIEW NUCLEAR PROGRAMS OF COUNTRIES NOT DISCUSSED IN MAY AND PRELIMINARILY DISCUSS THE U.S. FUEL BANK CONCEPT TABLED IN INFCE WG-3.
2. COUNTRIES REVIEWED INCLUDED AUSTRIA, BELGIUM, CANADA, GREECE, IRELAND, THE NETHERLANDS. THE RESULTS OF THE REVIEW WERE ESSENTIALLY AS OUTLINED IN THE SECRETARIAT PAPER. COUNTRIES NEITHER REPRESENTED NOR REVIEWED INCLUDED NEW ZEALAND, TURKEY, NORWAY AND LUXEMBOURG.

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3. THE DISCUSSION OF THE SECRETARIAT PAPER FOCUSSED ON INDIVIDUAL COUNTRY NUMBERS IN TABLE 2 AND HOW THEY WOULD BE PRESENTED IN ANY FINAL PAPER. IT WAS GENERALLY UNDERSTOOD THAT NUMBERS DERIVED BY THE NUCLEAR SUBGROUP REFLECT THE OVERALL CRITICAL ASSESSMENT BY THE GROUP OF MEMBERS' NUCLEAR PROGRAMS. THE FRG INSISTED THAT COUNTRIES SHOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO QUESTION THESE

DERIVED NUMBERS AND IT WAS AGREED THAT THE COUNTRIES
COULD SUBMIT COMMENTS ON THEIR OWN PROJECTIONS WITHIN
THE NEXT THREE WEEKS. THESE COMMENTS WILL BE
INCORPORATED BY THE SECRETARIAT AT ITS DISCRETION.

4. THE SECRETARIAT WAS CHARGED WITH REDRAFTING
IEA/SLT(78)85 FOR SUBMISSION TO THE SLT, TAKING INTO
CONSIDERATION COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM DELEGATIONS AND
PUTTING THE SUBGROUP RESULTS INTO AN AGGREGATE FORMAT.
INDIVIDUAL COUNTRY NUMBERS WILL NOT APPEAR IN THE FINAL
PAPER; HOWEVER, THE REDUCED AGGREGATE WILL REPRESENT
THE OPINION OF THE SUBGROUP. SUBJECT TO REVISIONS BY
THE SECRETARIAT AFTER CONSULTATION WITH COUNTRIES SO
DESIRING, THE RANGE FOR THE IEA SHOULD BE ON THE ORDER
OF 180 GWE TO 205 GWE FOR 1985 AND 266 GWE TO 338 GWE
IN 1990.

5. FOR INFCE FORECASTING PURPOSES, THIS IS NOT AN
UNAMBIGUOUS RESULT. THE VALIDITY OF THE IEA COUNTRY
ENDORSEMENT OF THE AGGREGATE FORECAST DEPENDS ON THE
DURABILITY OF THE SUBGROUP RESULTS IN THE SLT AND GB
MEETINGS IN SEPTEMBER. TO MAXIMIZE THE CREDIBILITY AND
UTILITY OF THE ADJUSTED IEA AGGREGATE NUMBERS IN

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ADJUSTING INFCE NEAR TERM FORECASTS, THE SLT AND GB
MUST ENDORSE THEM IN SEPTEMBER.

6. FUEL BANK:

(A) CURTIS DESCRIBED THE U.S. CONCEPT AS BEING
DESIGNED TO HELP RELIEVE THE PRESSURE ON COUNTRIES WITH
SMALL NUCLEAR POWER PROGRAMS TO DEVELOP THEIR OWN
SENSITIVE FUEL CYCLE FACILITIES IN THE ANTICIPATION
THAT THERE COULD BE A BREAKDOWN OF NORMAL FUEL SUPPLY
ARRANGEMENTS FOR REASONS OTHER THAN VIOLATION OF NON-
PROLIFERATION OBLIGATIONS. THIS WAS TO CORRECT THE
BASIC MISCONCEPTION OF A LARGE BANK (TO SUPPLY 20 GWE
PER YEAR) CONTAINED IN THE IEA SECRETARIAT PAPER
COMMENTING ON THE U.S. INFCE WG-3 FUEL BANK PAPER.

(B) ONCE THE CONCEPT WAS UNDERSTOOD, IT BECAME
CLEAR THAT THE IEA NUCLEAR SUBGROUP DID NOT FEEL ITSELF
TO BE IN A POSITION TO COMMENT ON A BANK WHOSE PURPOSE
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AND CHARACTERISTICS WERE DESIGNED TO SERVE PRIMARILY
NON-PROLIFERATION OBJECTIVES.

(C) NOTWITHSTANDING THE LOW KEY RESPONSE OF THE
SUBGROUP, THE DISCUSSION OFFERED THE OPPORTUNITY TO
CLARIFY THE U.S. FUEL BANK CONCEPT TO DELEGATIONS.
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